

BULLSEYE

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Photo by Airman Mark Kuhta

All wet

Lifeguards (from left) Amber Slatosch, Charles Ashby and Brad Krell watch swimmers at the newly opened Olympic Pool. The pool opened Aug. 4, filling its maximum capacity of 240 people. The Olympic Pool features one-, three- and five-meter diving boards, with a 13-foot maximum depth under the diving boards. Also featured is a baby pool for the little ones. Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Youth ages 11 to 13 are required to pass a swim test to swim alone. Youth over 13 can swim alone. Hours of operations are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission price is \$1, with discount season passes available.

AWACS flies high at Red Flag

By Tech. Sgt. Gayle B. Barajas
AWFC Public Affairs

An Airborne Warning and Control System, E-3, and its crew glided into the Nevada skies Tuesday on one of many missions scheduled during their visit here for the Red Flag exercise.

The members of the 552nd Air Control Wing AWACS' crew from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., are definitely not strangers to the Air Force's increasingly high operations tempo, and Red Flag provides the necessary training to prepare them for real world commitments.

"Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Red Flag are our major TDYs," said Capt. Richard D. Boyd, AWACS senior director. "AWACS personnel are TDY on an average of 150 to 200 days a year."

"We bring inexperienced guys here to get their first taste of operations before they go over to Saudi or Turkey to do it for real," said Capt. Boyd.

Senior Airman Eric Ferguson, airborne radar technician from the 552nd ACW, has been part of the AWACS crew for two years. He has been on four TDYs that ranged from 60 to 90 days and several two-week TDYs during his time with AWACS. Each time

Amn. Ferguson embarks on a mission away from his home base he leaves behind his wife, Jennifer, a supply technician with the 552nd Aircraft Generation Squadron, and son, Trevor, who is almost 2 years old.

Airman 1st Class Kenneth Pittman, is an airborne surveillance technician whose been with the AWACS program for about two years. This is his second time participating in Red Flag exercises. "You get a lot of experience and it's very energetic here," he said in reference to the Red Flag exercises.

Senior Airman Floyd Kerr, airborne sur-

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57th LG commander looks for honesty

By Tech. Sgt. Patricia Collins

AWFC Public Affairs

Honesty and straight forwardness. These are two traits the new 57th Logistics Group commander looks for in his people. In return he promises them the environment necessary to do their job and to support them in any way he can.

Col. Wallace "Skip" Collins, III took charge of the 57th LG in an assumption of command ceremony held July 23.

While he has commanded several different squadrons, this is his first time as a group commander. He expects it to challenge him and the people who work for him.

"Everyone here knows the diversity of Nellis and the 57th Wing is the biggest challenge we face," he said. "To deal with that diversity takes a true team approach. No one individual could ride herd on all the different aspects of the base. It's entirely possible that during the next two years, I won't have two days the same. That makes it challenging and exciting, wondering what each new day will bring."

To deal with this challenge, Col. Collins said he expects others to be the experts in their area. "I'll never be the expert. I rely instead on the people who work

for me. There are a lot of very smart people who take care of things in a top-notch manner. As their leader, I'll keep the focus on those things that will help them be effective."

Col. Collins, a native of El Paso, Texas, grew up in the aircraft maintenance business, and he was "blessed to have the opportunity to run his operation with the freedom to make mistakes, if need be, and to learn from my mistakes."

He said he'd give his people the same opportunity. "I challenge those who work for me to think outside the box and be innovative. I don't want them to charge off and do things freestyle, but I want them to know they have the attitude and support to do things as they see fit. We'll have some tough days, but we can deal with them as long as we have the facts and deal with things in an open and honest manner.

"I've never had time to play games. When I ask people a question, I expect a truthful answer — even if they think the answer is not what I want to hear."

Col. Collins said his first impression of Nellis and the 57th LG is that the "unit is hitting on all cylinders. I want this class act to continue. In the short time I've been here, I've noticed an excellent sense of urgency and a lot of people working hard to do the

right thing."

He also said, "Times in the Air Force are very challenging. We have to find a way to work and play hard so people can look back on their assignment here and say, 'This was a good assignment.'"

Col. Collins received his commission through the ROTC program at Clemson University, S.C., and owes his success to a simple formula he said applies to everyone — be they officer or enlisted.

"You have to set your own goals in the early years, and you have to be a sponge to absorb as much knowledge as you can. You have to strap on the tough jobs; you have to contribute the most and get the most out of every assignment. All your jobs won't be glamorous, but they're all going to be important."

He added that other ways to be successful include not being afraid to volunteer or to offer your own thoughts. "Who knows," he said, "the next major innovation could just as likely come from a two-striper as from someone with two stars. You just have to put all your energy into your job and conduct yourself with honor and credibility."

Col. Collins is married to the former Kathy R. Dayhood from Greenville, S.C., and they have three children, daughters Nicole and Kelsey, and son Whit.



Photo by Airman James T. May III

Col. Wallace A. Collins III, 57th Logistics Group commander, reviews a microwave measurement system with Airman 1st Class Jeremiah Bodi.



Photo by Airman James T. May III

An AWACS from 552nd Air Control Wing, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., sits on the Red Flag ramp. The 552nd ACW is participating in Red Flag and flies two missions daily.

AWACS

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veillance technician with the 552nd ACW, said coming to Red Flag is worth it because of the experience gained during the intense missions flown here.

Airman 1st Class Shana Reeves, airborne communications systems operator with the 552nd ACW, admits she is away from home often but enjoys the work she does on the AWACS.

"At Red Flag we learn from the mistakes we make during missions," Capt. Boyd said. "Good lessons are learned, and it prevents us from repeating mistakes over again."

The AWACS crew say they are fortunate to be here because of the training gained during the exercise. "We receive valuable training by being able to discuss the mission with pilots and aircrew while it's still fresh in the crews' minds," said Capt. Boyd.

Capt. Boyd said another unique quality about Red Flag is being able to interact with all the different types of fighters, foreign countries and military services.

Tuesday's mission lasted a little more than three hours but missions can last up to 12 hours. The members of the crew screamed out codes, studied surveillance screens and coordinated internally and externally during their intense mission. They also smiled, laughed and joked. With the high ops tempo AWACS crews experience, it is necessary to maintain a positive attitude and good sense of humor, said Amn. Reeves.

Construction for Phase III housing begins Monday

Staff Sgt. Ed Scott
AWFC Public Affairs

Nellis Terrace Phase III new housing project will begin Monday with the destruction of 35 old housing units between Clay and Larnier streets. The contractor has until Oct. 17 to finish the removal of the old units.

Under the proposed one-year construction project, the old units will be replaced with 28 three-bedroom duplexes similar to those in Phase II.

According to Mr. Frank Wertin, 99th Civil Engineer Squadron project engineer, the construction project has not been awarded yet so the new housing

plans have not been finalized.

"The yards will be the same size as in Phase II, and the only real changes expected will be in the garage and storage area," said Ms. Nancy Shigenaga, housing chief.

During Phase III a permanent-type fence will surround the construction area, blocking off McCarran between Larnier and Clay. Traffic down Clay will be one way from McCarran to Kinley and parking on Clay will not be permitted.

"Residents can expect more traffic on Kinley during this time," Ms. Shigenaga said. Kinley not only will be the easiest route for residents in and out

of Nellis Terrace, but will be the only authorized route for construction trucks.

According to Mr. Wertin, contractors will be working from approximately 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. For dust control, "the contractor has a full-time water truck and water person," he said. "He cannot guarantee no dust, but it will be kept to a minimum."

During the tear down, Mr. Wertin said there will be a possibility for some residents to experience utility outages but that "houses affected will be notified in advance."

For more information or concerns during the Phase III project, contact the Housing Office at 652-4207.

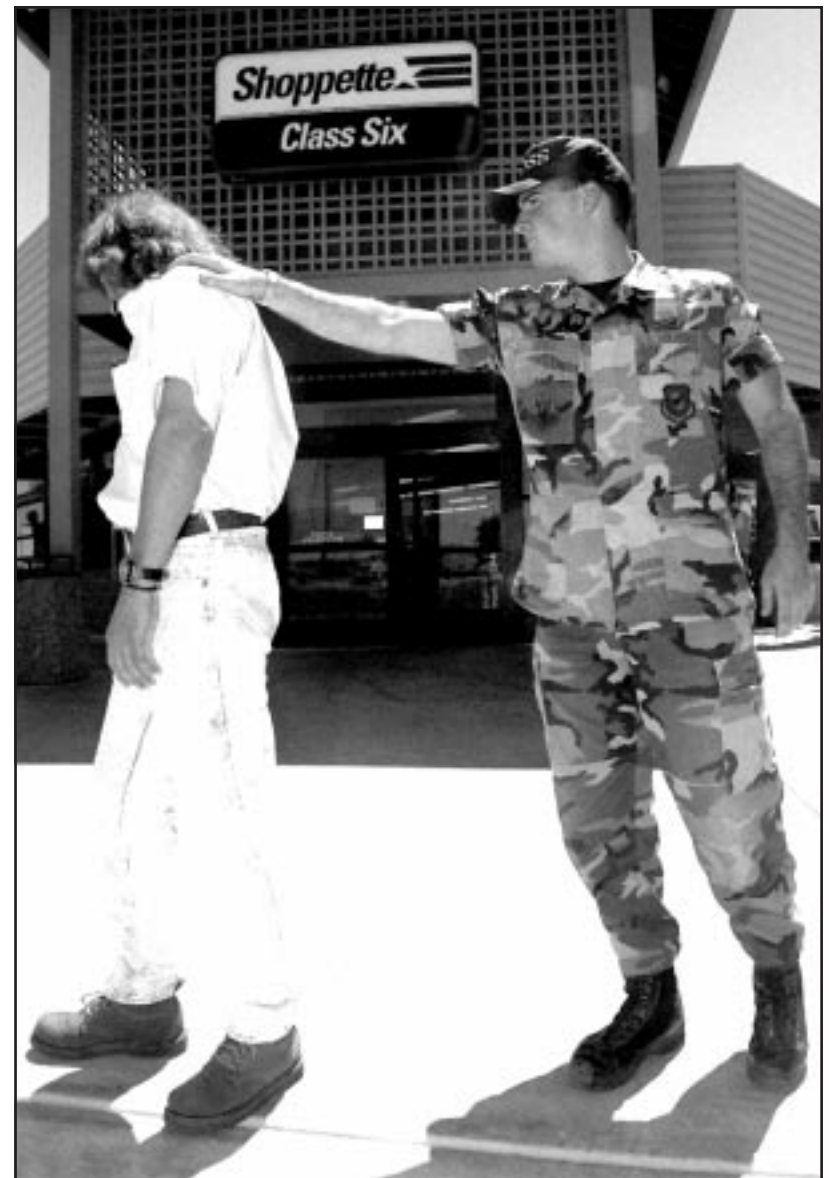
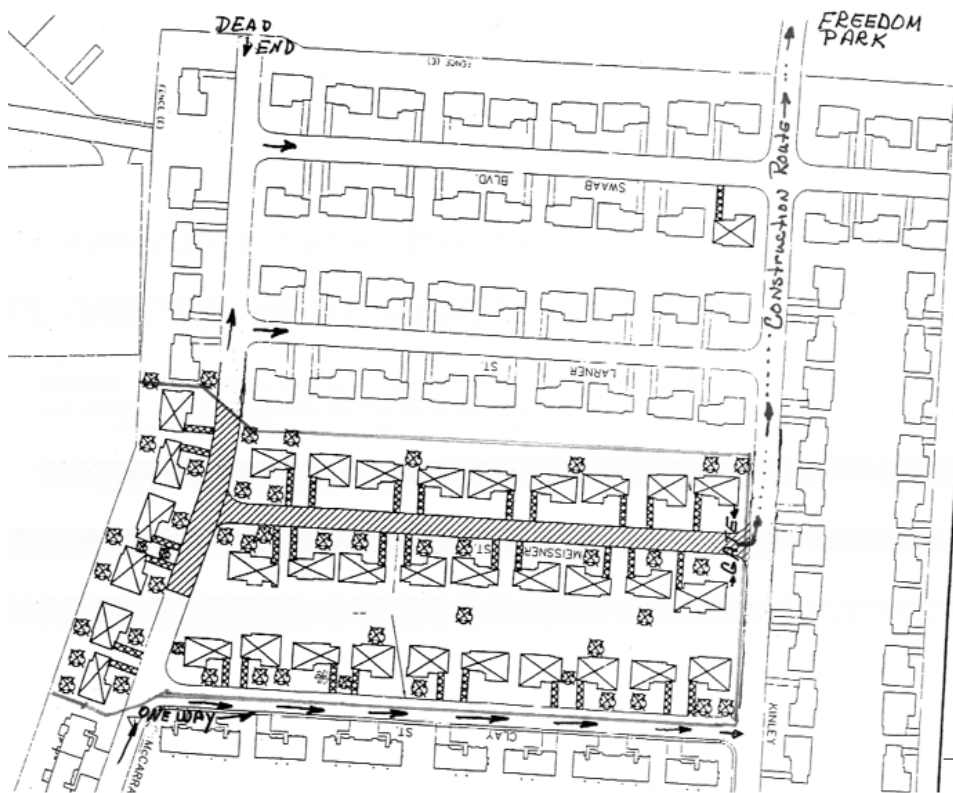


Photo by Airman James T. May III

Senior Airman Tony Stoll, Weather Flight, demonstrates how he helped capture a shoplifter recently.

Weather troop stops thief cold in his tracks

By Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi
AWFC Public Affairs

Recently, a vigilant Nellis airman helped "take a bite out of crime" by capturing a fleeing shoplifter at the Shoppette adjacent to the Home and Garden Center.

Senior Airman Tony Stoll, 57th Operation Support Squadron/Weather Flight, captured the suspect after a brief, but intense, foot chase.

"It was about 9 p.m., and I was buying snacks, when I heard an employee yelling and saw the kid take off running out of the store," Amn. Stoll said. "It was just instinct. I kicked off my flip-flops and chased him down bare-foot."

A Shoppette employee ran after the suspect, shouting for him to stop. While the suspect was turned around to see where the employee was, "He ran right into me and fell down and said 'I quit,'" Amn. Stoll said.

"Even though he's a weather troop, trained to keep his head in the clouds, I'm glad he didn't this time," said Maj. Tony Moninski, weather flight commander. "He's a credit to all the 'blue suitors' out there and a super individual," Maj. Moninski said.

New CMSAF sworn in

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Chief Master Sgt. Jim Finch was sworn in as the 13th chief master sergeant of the Air Force, replacing Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Eric W. Benken, who retired July 30.

Prior to his selection as CMSAF, Finch served as the command chief master sergeant for Air Combat Command. He

has been a command chief master sergeant for six years, the last four at ACC headquarters and before that at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. In that role, he has worked with Benken and many of the former chief master sergeants of the Air Force, along with the other command chiefs.

Finch entered the Air Force in 1974 and has served tours at vari-

ous locations throughout the continental United States, Europe and Alaska. He has worked as a missile maintenance technician, professional military education instructor, PME course curriculum developer, Noncommissioned Officer Academy commandant numbered Air Force senior enlisted adviser and command chief master sergeant.